

## WOMEN AT THE BAR.

In the autumn of 1868, Belva A. Lockwood, who had then been a member of the bar of the District of Columbia for five years, and in good standing, having some business to transact requiring litigation in Prince George's county. Md., applied to Judge Magruder, then sitting on the bench at Marlborough, the shiretown of that county, for admission to the bar, under the rule of comity for the admission of attorneys in the District and in Maryland.

Judge Magruder not only refused to admit her, notwithstanding her record as an attorney and the eminent plea of her counsel, but went a little outside of his judicial duty to make a speech to the bar in general, and Mrs. Lockwood in particular, in which he said among other things, as he grew eloquent: "The seas have their bounds and the eternal hills, and the sphere of a woman is at home with her husband and children," and closed his peroration with these memorable words: "I pray God that the day will never come when the women of Maryland will be admitted to the bar."

On Tuesday, October 11, '92, Mrs. Lockwood again had occasion to visit Marlborough Court House in a professional way, and this time applied to Judge Brooke, who has succeeded Judge Magruder on that bench, her admission being moved by J. B. Contee, esq., of that bar, and the lady was promptly admitted, Judge Brooke declaring that he could not refuse her, as her papers showed admission to the bar in Frederick county, Md., in March, 1861.

Mrs. Lockwood will take up again the case she was compelled to drop eleven years ago.

But the Virginia bar at Richmond, Va., in its persistent refusal to admit Mrs. Davis, is quite as far behind the times in its conservatism as was Judge Magruder. It will be compelled eventually to admit Mrs. Davis, and it might as well do it gracefully. Twelve women have been admitted to the United States Supreme Court, one to the Court of Claims, and any woman duly qualified may be admitted to any of the Federal courts of the country.

In 1878 Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood was admitted to the circuit court of Fairfax county, Va., and if she were to apply for admission to the Richmond bar could not legally be refused such admission. If Mrs. Lockwood, why not Mrs. Davis?

The courts do well to guard against the infirmities of applicants, but within the last two decades the people of the States have grown too broad to make sex a barrier to professional preferment, and especially so in an age in which women are invading every industrial vocation.